

## Vermont Board of Liquor & Lottery

### May Minutes

Record of the Meeting of the Vermont Board of Liquor & Lottery held on May 11, 2022 via in person, web and phone.

**Members Present:** Martin Manahan, Chair(virtual) , Thom Lauzon(Virtual), Megan Cicio(virtual), Ed Flanagan (in person)

**Others Present:** Wendy Knight, Commissioner; Andrew Collier, Deputy Commissioner; Wesley Lawrence, Board Counsel; Jacob Humbert, Assistant Attorney General; Skyler Genest, OCE Chief; Tonia Pryce, Purchasing Coordinator; Katie Fleury, Program Technician I; Brendan Day Program Technician II; Sylvia Buzzell; Martin Prevost, Director of Licensing; Jake Feldman, Jake Marren, Hallie Rubalcaba, Sujeet Nuthulapaty; Ravi Prakash Varkoor, Rajesh Mollati;

**Meeting Start:** 9:00 am.

### Additions/Deletions to the Agenda:

- Demo of licensing portal
- Hearing officer

### Board Actions on Consent Agenda Items:

- Approve minutes from April 13, 2022 Board Meeting – Moved and approved. Thom 2<sup>nd</sup> Ed unanimous
- Approve licenses issued April 1, 2022 – April 30, 2022 – Moved and approved. Thom 2<sup>nd</sup> Ed

**Public Comment:** None

### Licensing:

- Pearl's Place
  - Vermont creative culinary applied for a first and second class overlap of the two classes a common hallway where they would have to cross, Martin suggests employees may cross in hallway with alcohol not patrons. Approved motion my Thom 2<sup>nd</sup> by ed Unanimous No alcohol consumption in shared hallway

### Enforcement:

- **Docket Number 2022-005 – CSW Food & Beverage (Pearl Street Pizza, Barre VT)**
  - Re: Alleged Violation of General Regulation 16

- Agreement reached; hard copy of signed agreement has not been received yet but has received scanned copy. Will be put on schedule for next month pending when we have a hard copy and check

### Discussion Items

- VCPM distribution model final report
  - Tabled until June meeting
  - Power point presented by Jake Marren
- Retailer License Agreement – Lottery
  - New gaming systems coming out good time to start new agreement
  - With new agreement it allows lottery to give approval for placement of play stations at agent locations
  - Merging two separate agreements into one
  - New agreement has language needed for State contracts.
  - Motion by Ed 2<sup>nd</sup> by Thom unanimous
- Demo of licensing portal
  - Skyler Genest demonstrated new licensing system
- Hearing officer
  - Backlog of cases which a hearing officer would help aid that.
  - Focused mainly on compliance related issues.
  - 14 pending cases that would fit seeing hearing officer
  - Motion to appoint Wesley as hearing officer, Jacob training DLC Enforcement, and a trail run motion by Thom 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ed Flanagan unanimous looking for recap in June meeting

### Commissioner Comments:

- Renewals went smoothly this year
- First jackpot winner in VT for Lucky for Life bought in Colchester
- Powerball and Lucky for Life sales up
- Megabucks sales down
- April YoY liquor sales were flat up. Year to date up 7.2%
- On premise liquor sales March YoY up 51%
- April YoY up 30% for on premise liquor sales
- Sci Games conversions going well
- New B2B projects getting ready to launch
- West Rutland and Middlebury locations up for bid liquor stores
- 69 retail agent's locations audited
- Rich Morey joining as director of retail ops
- Trucks now have VTrans Drive Well Campaign on them
- Liquor omnibus H730 making its way through legislator
  - New definition for cider
  - Small tweak to special event permits
  - New category definition of low ABV RTD to be distributed in the private sector

- For technical corrections including staggered licenses and renewals
- Sports betting taken out will be picked up again next year.

**Other Business:**

- April Listings – Motion by Ed Flanagan 2<sup>nd</sup> by Thom Lauzon

**Meeting Adjourned:** 10:58am

**Next Meeting:** June 8, 2022